



Testimony of Eric W. Gjede
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Before the Committee on Transportation
Hartford, CT
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Testifying in Support of HB 5320 An Act Concerning The Revenue Raised From Public Transportation Fares and HB 6039 An Act Limiting Expenditures From The Special Transportation Fund

Good Afternoon Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Eric Gjede and I am assistant counsel at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) which represents more than 10,000 large and small companies throughout the state of Connecticut.

I want to thank the committee for holding a public hearing on these two important proposed bills. A safe, modernized transportation infrastructure is vital for the efficient flow of goods and services to and from Connecticut's businesses. Connecticut's transportation infrastructure is in need of costly repairs and the funding needed for such repairs is diminishing. In the coming months, we know this committee will be tackling the issue of how to properly fund future projects. Regardless of how the committee ultimately chooses to deal with funding issues, we hope you make the commitment to keep the special transportation fund safe from being used for general fund expenditures. A special transportation fund that is exclusively used to address Connecticut's transportation needs could help us avoid future shortfalls.

I urge the committee to support HB 5320 and HB 6039 because we need our special transportation funds to be used for their intended purpose now more than ever.